

# BUILDING ORDINANCE.

The letters **T. H. O.** on Sections of this Ordinance refer to Sections in the Tenement House Ordinance, see page 109.

An Ordinance relating to the Department of Buildings and Governing the Erection of Buildings, Etc., in the City of Chicago, Passed March 28, 1898, and all Subsequent Amendments Thereto, as in Force and Effect on July 1, 1904.

The sections of the Building Ordinance of 1898, numbered from 164 to 197, inclusive, were repealed January 18, 1904, and the new Ordinance governing theatres, under Class 4 and 5, were passed in their stead. These new ordinances will be found on page 121.

*On June 29, 1903, a special ordinance was passed by the City Council relating to the appointment of officers of the Department of Buildings of the City.*

*The sections relating to the same are abridged in Sections 1 to 28 inclusive.*

*Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Chicago:*

**Section 1. Building Department Established.**—There is hereby established an executive department of the municipal government of the City of Chicago, which shall be known as the Department of Buildings, and shall embrace a Commissioner of Buildings, a Deputy Commissioner of Buildings, an Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Buildings, a Secretary to the Commissioner, a Chief Building Inspector, also such inspectors of elevators, inspectors of stand pipes and fire escapes, and inspectors of buildings, and such other assistants and employes as the City Council may, by ordinance, prescribe and establish.

**Sec. 2. Commissioner of Buildings—Qualifications—Appointment—Term—Person nominated to file affidavits as to Qualifications.**—Ten (10) years' experience in Chicago as Architect, Civil Engineer or Builder. Appointed by the Mayor with consent of Council for a term of two (2) years.

**Sec. 3. Commissioner's Bond.**—Shall execute bond for twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) dollars.

**Sec. 4. Appointment of Subordinates—Bonds of Subordinates.**—Shall have management of Department and appoint, by consent of Mayor, all subordinate officers, and may remove same. Subordinates shall give approved bonds.

**Sec. 5. Enforcement of Ordinances—Commissioner to Construe Ordinances—Copies of Constructions of Ordinances to be Furnished to Inspectors.**

**Sec. 6. Must Take Precautions in Behalf of Public Safety—May Require Repair or Alterations in Such Cases.**

**Sec. 7. Inspection of all Buildings in General Use—Must Report all Unsafe Conditions.**—The Commissioner of Buildings shall inspect or cause to be inspected all public school buildings, public halls, churches, theaters and all buildings used either for manufacturing or commercial purposes, also hotels, apartment houses and other buildings, occupied by large numbers of people, for the purpose of determining the safety of such buildings, or any parts or appliances or equipment thereof, the sufficiency of their doors, passageways, aisles and stairways, and generally their facilities for egress in case of fire or other accident; the strength of their floors, their safeguards connected with the storage of combustibles, their appliances for extinguishing fires and for resisting the spread of fire, and shall make returns of all violations of the several provisions of this ordinance to the Law Department for prosecution.

**Sec. 8. Must Keep Record of Private Property Taken for Public Use—Issue of Permits for such Property Guarded Against.**

**Sec. 9. Commissioner to Interpret this Ordinance.**

**Sec. 10. Commissioner to Make Inspection of Elevators—Power to Stop Use of Same.**